

# Reading Dictionaries in the Dark: The significance of evolving language materials

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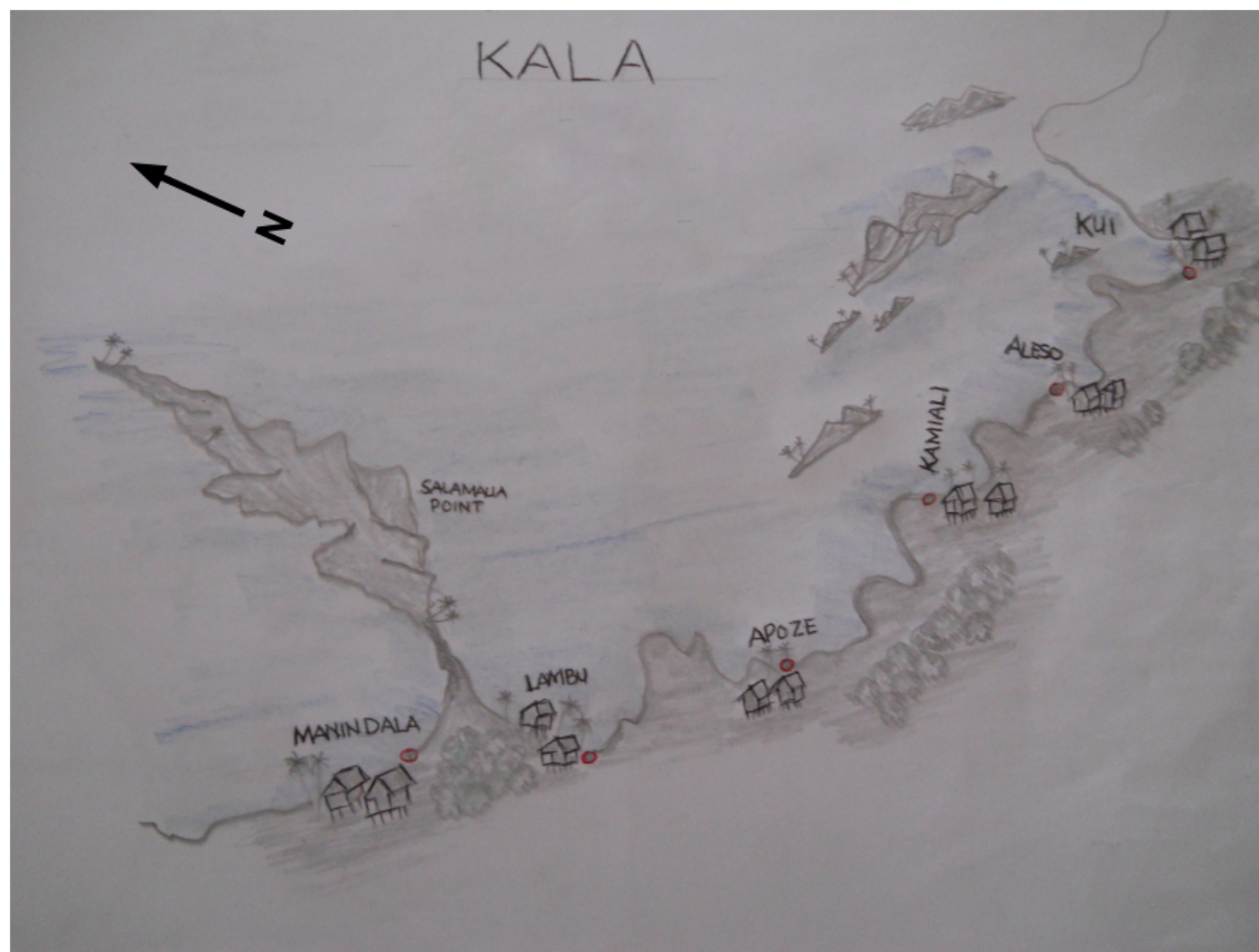


Yuninda, Saima, and Martina reading the  
Kala dictionary in the dark  
Kamiali Village, PNG - May 2013

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Map of Kala villages drawn by: Claude Elisha  
Manindala Village, June 2013

# \*Kala Language Committee

“Our long-term goal is to strengthen the use of the Kala Language in our communities so that Kala can be sustained for our future generations” (Kala Language Committee, 2008).

- 1) Written form of our Kala language
- 2) Training for elementary teachers
- 3) Curriculum materials in Kala for elementary schools





# KLC Orthography Decision-Making Workshop

Kamiali Village - June 2010





## **Kala Kaŋa Bi Ŋa Kapia**

**Chara DeVolder, Christine Schreyer,  
and John Wagner, editors**



**Kala Kaŋa Bi Ŋa  
Kapia -  
Dictionary Bilong  
Tok Ples Kala  
(Kala Dictionary)**

**Language  
Elicitation: 2010**

**Community Edits:  
2011**

**Published: 2012**

# Reading the Dictionary in Kui Village - May 2013





# #GetYourManuscriptOut

“How to fight procrastination in academic writing through crowdsourcing”  
(with credit to Raul Pacheco-Vega)

[http://www.raulpacheco.org/2014/07/  
getyourmanuscriptout-or-how-to-fight-  
procrastination-in-academic-writing-through-  
crowdsourcing/](http://www.raulpacheco.org/2014/07/getyourmanuscriptout-or-how-to-fight-procrastination-in-academic-writing-through-crowdsourcing/)

# #GetYourLanguageDocumentationOut

**#GetYourLangDocOut**

OR

“How to encourage developing evolving language materials through crowdsourcing”

AND

“Why it’s significant for prestige planning and empowerment”

# Prestige Planning

The Prestige of Production

VS

The Prestige of Reception

(Haarmann, 1990)



# Exchange as Empowerment

“Locally controlled language programs are notoriously difficult to sustain: they lose momentum, become embroiled in conflict, or simply fail to achieve their stated goals” (Dobrin, 2008: 303).

“[In Melanesia] A person’s ability to elicit exchange thus constitutes a highly valued form of empowerment, as it provides a basis for establishing self-worth” (Dobrin, 2008: 308)

# Documenting Language Change

**Balus** (*dove*) – MA: balusi,  
LA: balusi/ mā kikiyā, AP:  
balusi, KA: yumbula, AL:  
yumbula, KU: māyumbula

**Bembe** (*butterfly*) – MA  
maŋ lulup, LA: pomboya,  
AP: bomboya, KA:  
pomboya, AL: pomboya,  
KU: pomboya



**Namba seven pikinini**  
**man bilong mi (#7 son) –**  
KA/AL/KU: samba, LA:  
ŋsemba, AP: asemba  
MA i nogat dispela namba  
(seven), ol i givim nem  
stret tasol



# Orthography Stabilization



Orthography workshop in Apoze village 2013



LI



lolo

Is that  
An [l] or  
An [ɹ]?  
Neither!



# The Non-Permanence of Paper



Reviewing Storybooks from 2010

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## Continuing Challenges:

- communication
- funding
- time



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**#GetYourLangDocOut**



A tropical beach at dusk. The sky is a deep blue, and a full moon is visible in the upper center. Palm trees are silhouetted against the sky on the left and right. In the foreground, the silhouettes of two people sitting on a bench and another person standing are visible against the dark water and beach.

**Tě Anda (Thank you) to:**  
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